

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising  
~~(A)~~—at least one binder (A) comprising at least one group that is a potentially cationic group and/or; a cationic group; or a potentially anionic group and/or; ~~or~~ an anionic group, and one or more reactive functional groups which undergo thermal crosslinking reactions, and  
(C) a bismuth subsalicylate compound (C) having an empirical formula of  $C_7H_5O_4Bi$ .
2. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the bismuth subsalicylate (C) is water-insoluble and/or pulverulent.
3. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the bismuth subsalicylate (C) has a bismuth content of from 56.5 to 60% by weight.
4. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, comprising, based on its solids, from 0.05 to 5% by weight of bismuth subsalicylate (C).
5. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the binder (A) comprises cationic groups.
6. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, wherein the one or more reactive functional groups of binder (A) comprise hydroxyl groups.
7. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 13, wherein the self crosslinking binder comprises blocked isocyanate groups.
8. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 14, wherein the at least one crosslinking agent (B) comprises a blocked polyisocyanate.
9. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one additive (D).

10. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 9, wherein the additive (D) comprises a pigment.

11. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 10, wherein the at least one additive (D) comprises pigments selected from the group consisting of color pigments, effect pigments, electrically conductive pigments, magnetically shielding pigments, fluorescent pigments, extender pigments, anticorrosion pigments, organic pigments, inorganic pigments, and mixtures comprising at least one of the foregoing.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of coating a surface, comprising applying the composition of claim 1 to the surface by electrophoretic deposition to create a coated surface and applying another coating to the coated surface before the applied composition is cured.

13. (Previously Presented) The electrocoat material of claim 1 wherein the at least one binder is self crosslinking.

14. (Previously Presented) The electrocoat material of claim 1 further comprising at least one crosslinking agent comprising complementary reactive functional groups reactive with the reactive functional groups of the at least one binder (A).

15. (Previously Presented) The electrocoat material of claim 14 wherein the at least one binder (A) comprises at least one self crosslinking binder and at least one externally crosslinking binder.

16. (New) A composition, which is 5 to 35% by weight solids, comprising:

(A) at least one binder comprising at least one group that is a potentially cationic ammonium group and/or cationic ammonium group, and one or more reactive functional groups which comprise hydroxyl groups and undergo thermal crosslinking reactions,

(B) at least one crosslinking agent that comprises a blocked polyisocyanate,

(C) from 0.2 to 5% by weight, based on solids in the composition, of a bismuth subsalicylate compound having an empirical formula of  $C_7H_5O_4Bi$  that is water-insoluble

and pulverulent, wherein the bismuth subsalicylate (C) has a bismuth content of from 56.5 to 60% by weight; and

(D) pigments selected from the group consisting of color pigments, effect pigments, electrically conductive pigments, magnetically shielding pigments, fluorescent pigments, extender pigments, anticorrosion pigments, organic pigments, inorganic pigments, and mixtures comprising at least one of the foregoing.

17. (New) The composition of claim 16 wherein the composition is the product of combining a dispersion comprising the binder and crosslinking agent with a pigment paste comprising the bismuth subsalicylate compound that is mixed and milled with the pigment.

18. (New) The composition of claim 17 wherein the composition comprises bismuth salt consisting of the bismuth subsalicylate compound.

19. (New) The composition of claim 18 further comprising a grinding resin.

20. (New) The composition of claim 19 wherein the grinding resin is an epoxy-amine adduct that is a product of mixing and milling the pigment in combination with the bismuth subsalicylate.